changed his mind and requested to restore the telepohne (not physically) and keep in safe custody with restrospective effect from 11.10.1999.

(iii) Telephone No. 3794046 was kept under safe custody for six months from 11.10.1999 to 10.04.2000 and thereafter allotted to the other party on 26.06.2000.

Opening of new post offices in Orissa

957. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of new post offices are proposed to be opened in Orissa during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a target of opening of 8 Branch Post Offices in Other Area, 2 Branch Post Offices in Tribal and 2 Sub-Post Offices in Other Area in Orissa during the current financial year. Opening of new post offices is subject to sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

Effect on DTS due to corporatization

958. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government desire to corporatize the Department of Telecom Services by 1st October, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it will adversely effect unprofitable investment like Rural Telecom Services and village Telephone because the profit of DTS would be heavily reduced due to payment of corporate tax licence fee and dividend to share holders etc;

(c) whether it would also entail higher salary to staff as well as perks; and

(d) what other steps Government have in mind to ensure the profitability of DTS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A consortium of consultants led by M/s A.F. Ferguson and Company has been appointed to assist in the development and implementation of a viable strategy for corporatisation of the Department of Telecom Services (and of the recently created Depatment of Telecom Operations). The consortium consists of M/s. A.F. Ferguson and Co., M/s N.M. Rothschild & Sons, ABN AMRO Bank N.V. and M/s JDB Dadachanji & Co. The financial viability of the corporate entity will depend on a number of factors, including factors such as corporate tax, staff salary etc. The terms of reference of the consultant *inter-alia* include assessment of the financial viability taking into account factors like need to spread Rural Telephony and other measures that need to be taken to ensure profitability of the corporate entity.

Workload on EDBPMSs

959. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2632 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th April 2000 and state;

(a) whether the exercise of assessment of workload on EDBPMS in Nalanda District has since been completed;

(b) if so, what are the details of EDBPOS in this regard;

(c) whether as a follow up action wage revision has been also effected;

(d) if so, the branch-wise details in the regard;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when wage revision would be undertaken?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.